

News Briefs

Message from 14th MDG

The 14th Medical Group would like to remind everyone that good hygiene along with safe and effective vaccines are key to ensuring current and future health. With an effective flu prevention program, the 14th MDG has had no confirmed cases of the flu within the active duty population. Several cases of whooping cough, chickenpox, shingles and other vaccine preventable diseases could be more severe without proper vaccination. While most base children are already fully vaccinated, the 14th MDG is actively seeking out those who have missed vaccines. If your child needs immunization or for questions or information on the status of family vaccinations, call the immunization clinic at Ext. 2187.


Valentine's Day flower sale

The 14th Comprtroller Squadron will sell red and assorted roses from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday and from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Room 102 in the Customer Service building. Cost is \$3 per rose. Assorted roses will be available. For pre-order, delivery or questions, call Ext. 3150 or Ext. 2726.

Columbus' Biggest Losers

The base Fitness and Health and Wellness Centers are sponsoring a Biggest Losers competition beginning March 1. Teams may sign up at the fitness center or HAWC Monday through Feb. 24. The team that loses the most weight can win a three day and two night stay in one of three selected cities. For more information call Ext. 2772 or Ext. 2477.

Inside



FEATURE 8

SUPT Class 06-05 graduates at 10 a.m. at the Columbus Club.


Columbus AFB Training Timeline											
PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (06-13)	2.00 days	-1.39 days	Feb. 9	48th (06-05)	0.00 days	2.71 days	Today	T-37	784	560	10413
41st (06-12)	3.43 days	-0.89 days	March 8	50th (06-05)	2.00 days	1.87 days	Today	T-38C	354	269	4643
								T-1A	329	343	4644
Graduation speaker: Brig. Gen. (select) Mike Moeller, Air Combat Command											

BLAZE TEAM's new teammates




Airman Alyssa Wallace

The BLAZE TEAM would like to welcome new troops to Columbus AFB. Pictured are back row left to right: class leader Airman 1st Class Joshua Born, 37th Flying Training Squadron; Airman 1st Class Justin Caldwell, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Airman 1st Class Benjamin Brown, 14th Contracting Squadron; Airman 1st Class Lamesha Meeks, 14th Mission Support Group; Tech. Sgt. Brian Bailey, First Term Airman Center instructor. Front row left to right: Airman 1st Class Daniel Rodriguez 14th Medical Group; Airman Jaquelyne Ford, 14th MSG; Airman 1st Class Leslie Rangel, 14th OSS; and Airman 1st Class Brian Childers 14th OSS.




14th Medical Group



The 14th Flying Training Wing would like to congratulate the 14th MDG on being named the No. 1 free standing/small hospital in the Air Force.

14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED

As of press time, 33 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed worldwide. Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



AHLTA The 14th Medical Group will implement a new computer system called the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application beginning Feb. 21. The AHLTA will allow personal medical records to be seen by any doctor in the military that uses AHLTA which will in turn enhance medical care. During the implementation, routine and wellness appointments will take a little longer than normal. A credentialed AHLTA instructor may be in the examination room; they will be teaching providers the new system. If a patient feels uncomfortable for any reason, they should immediately notify let any member of your PCM team. For more information or questions on AHLTA, call 1st Lt. Brian Caruthers at Ext. 2139.

SILVER WINGS

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Editor

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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The SILVER WINGS staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise stated.

Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2427.

Medical orchestra composes tribute to troops

WASHINGTON — U.S. servicemembers deployed worldwide will get a special Valentine’s Day serenade from the largest medical musical group in the United States.

The nonprofit Veterans Administration National Medical Chorale and Symphony Orchestra performed a selection of classical, popular and patriot music before a Pentagon audience Feb. 6. It will be broadcast to overseas troops on Valentine’s Day, Tuesday on the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Radio and Television Service.

Victor Wahby conducted the 300-member musical group in the Pentagon auditorium. The group spans the United States and has members from the Department of Veterans Affairs system and the non-VA health care community. The group was founded here in 1991.

Celebrities Ed McMahon of “Tonight Show” fame and ABC television news journalist Cokie Roberts co-hosted the Pentagon event that was performed before veterans groups and servicemembers. The program’s theme was “For the Love of America — A Musical Love Letter to the Troops.”

Mr. McMahon, a retired Marine Reserve colonel, voiced his support for America’s servicemembers, noting they are heroes.

“Keep your chin up, OK? We’re rooting — for you,” he said.

“Hang in there, all of you out on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan or aboard ships in the middle of the ocean,” Ms. Roberts said.

The program also featured a series of personal readings by other celebrities, such as Washington Times journalist Tony Blankley, and members of Congress and senior military leaders.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Giuliano, a member of the U.S. Army Chorus, participated in the event. Together with the musical group’s Susan Joy Bishai, they sang Lee Greenwood’s, “God Bless the USA,” among other selections. The Army Chorus, he said, is a component of the U.S. Army Band (Pershing’s Own).

Sergeant Giuliano said he enjoys singing to servicemembers, especially those who serve in harm’s way.

“It’s indeed an honor and a pleasure,” he said.

The concert was co-sponsored by DOD’s “America Supports You” program. Attendees were asked to write thank you messages that will be delivered to overseas-deployed troops later this year.

Harriet Ginsburg was among scores of attendees who filled out postcard-sized “America Supports You” message cards after the concert.

“The concert was great,” Ms. Ginsburg



Staff Sgt. Todd Lopez

Cokie Roberts, Vice Admiral Ann Rondeau and Lt. Gen. Arthur Lichte narrate selections between musical acts during a tribute to America’s armed forces Feb. 6. Entertainers, musicians, journalists and senior military leaders gathered at the Pentagon auditorium for the event, titled “For the Love of America -- A Musical Love Letter to the Troops.” Talent was provided by the Veterans Administration National Medical Chorale and Symphony Orchestra. Admiral Rondeau is the director of Navy staff and General Lichte is the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force.

said. “I’m filling out my cards and (I) love our troops.”

Ms. Ginsburg added a personal message for U.S. servicemembers.

“Save America. Keep America safe,” she said. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News.)*

BMT extended, NCOs to learn new languages

Staff Sgt. Julie Weckerlein
Air Force Print News

ORLANDO, Fla. — Civilians wanting to be Airmen are going to have to tough it out for an additional two and a half weeks at basic military training, said the Air Force’s top general here Feb. 2.

Airmen graduating from BMT are going to be better trained and better equipped to be war fighters, said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley during the Air Force Association’s Air Warfare Symposium.

“My belief is that every Airman should be ready the minute they graduate for the air expeditionary force that is today’s Air Force,” he said. “We demand a lot of those kids when they get out into the field, and they have to be better prepared for the challenges they face out there.”

The additional weeks will give more time for Airmen to be trained on war-fighting skills they would encounter in a deployed combat location, such as the use of small arms and emergency medical skills.

Airmen need to have more awareness about the Air Force expeditionary business, General Moseley said.

New Airmen will not be the only ones getting trained for global and expeditionary warfare. Senior noncommissioned officers and field grade officers will soon be required to take up a new language as part of their professional military training.

“Starting next year, the students down at Maxwell (Air Force Base, Ala., home to Air University and the Senior NCO Academy) are going to see a more robust education that is going to prepare them to be leaders in this global war on terror, and that includes language education” General Moseley said. “It is going to be mandatory that they take one of four languages: Arabic, French, Spanish and Chinese. This will enable them to go to other countries, not only in the (Middle East), but in the sub-Sahara, and be able to better work in those regions.”

General Moseley said Air Force leaders are seeking ways to make education opportunities more accessible to its force.

“We want to put options out there for distance learning and advanced degrees,” he said. “A higher education is of immense value to our Airmen, especially our senior NCOs and junior officers

DUI status

“Don’t Drink and Drive”
Last DUI: Oct. 28, 2005
Days since last DUI: 105
Unit: 14th Security Forces Squadron



Congratulations reenlistees

The 14th Flying Training Wing congratulates the most recent Air Force reenlistees:

Tech Sgt. Pamela Brown, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; **Tech. Sgt. Jerry Malone**, 14th Operations Support Squadron; **Staff Sgt. John Comer**, 14th Communications Squadron; **Senior Airman Meredith Carrick**, 14th Medical Support Squadron; and **Senior Airman John Verzal**, 14th Communications Squadron.

Good neighbor visit



U.S. Navy photo by Penny Randall

Col. Mark Baker, 14th Flying Training Wing vice-commander, talks with Navy Capt. Curt Goldacker, command officer of Training Air Wing One, and Navy Capt. Russell Knight, commanding officer of Naval Air Station Meridian, upon arrival at McCain Field on Feb. 7. Colonel Baker spent the day learning how the Navy trains its student pilots. Colonel Baker and several Air Force instructor pilots experienced a familiarization flight in the T-45C “Goshawk.” Captain Goldacker said he is thrilled to be hosting the Air Force officers as part of the “Good Neighbor Project.” Captain Goldacker led a team that visited Columbus AFB on Jan. 18.

Beware of “free” tax preparation

Capt. Deric Prescott
14th Flying Training Wing

Many have seen the recent blitz of advertising in preparation for the upcoming tax season. Several of these ads offer what claims to be “free” tax preparation, but they don’t always deliver what they promise. Upon evaluating these offers, keep the following in mind:

- * For most of these offers, only the federal return is “free;” state return will cost anywhere from \$20 to \$30.
- * Many offer electronic filing, but fail to mention they will charge a fee to do so — in some cases as much as \$20.
- *In addition, many preparers advertise that customers will walk away with their returns the same day.

Be aware that while this is true, the preparer will charge up to 30 percent interest on that advance.

By using the Columbus AFB Tax Center, people can avoid all of the pitfalls they may encounter when using other methods of filing returns. At the base center:

- * Customers can electronically file federal and state returns, absolutely free.
- * While the tax center does not provide advances on returns, customers who electronically file and opt to deposit their returns directly into their bank accounts can receive their money within a week in most cases — at no charge.
- *For those who prefer to file returns using computer software, the Columbus AFB Tax Center offers

self-help kiosks featuring the user-friendly “Tax Wise” program, which is similar in style and format to other programs that might cost up to \$40. Additionally, volunteers will be on-site to answer any questions.

Again, these services are 100 percent free to the Columbus AFB community with no hidden fees or costs!

The Columbus AFB Tax Center office hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please call the office at Ext. 7613 for an appointment or e-mail Appointments@ColumbusVITA.com. Walk-in and drop off returns are always accepted. For more information visit: www.ColumbusVITA.com.

News briefs

Humanitarian Service Medal

The Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal has been awarded to personnel engaged in the relief efforts for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The HSM is authorized for personnel supporting immediate relief operations in the area of eligibility of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. Personnel must have provided at least one day of direct support in the area to qualify. The AFSM is authorized for personnel in direct support of the operations for hurricanes Katrina and Rita for 30 consecutive days or more in an area encompassing the U.S. from Aug. 27, 2005 to Feb. 26, 2006. Individuals who believe they are eligible for the award of the HSM or AFSM must provide the source documentation that confirms their entitlement to either award to their Commanders Support Staff.

Campaign Medals

The Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal were approved in May 2004 to recognize servicemembers who serve or have served in Afghanistan or Iraq and the contiguous waters and air space. The ACM will be positioned below the the Kosovo Campaign Medal and above the ICM. The ICM will be positioned below the ACM and above the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. Only one of these medals may be authorized for any individual per deployment. Service Stars are not authorized. For more information, call the awards and decorations section at Ext. 2566.

Death Gratuity Increase

The amount of the death gratuity payable to eligible beneficiaries has been increased from more than \$12,000 to \$100,000. This payment is made in the event of death while a member of the Armed Forces is on active duty and regardless of whether or not related to combat. Prior to this change, only deaths resulting from wounds, injuries or illnesses incurred in an operation such as war games and training, or an area designated as a combat operation or combat zone were authorized a death gratuity payment of \$100,000. The gratuity is also payable if a member or former member dies within 120 days after discharge or release from active duty. For questions or more information, call Casualty Affairs at Ext. 2720.

Military Spouse Scholarships

The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for its Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships. Applicants must be a spouse of a servicemember and studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. Scholarships may be used for tuition, fees, books and school room and board. Applications must be submitted online by midnight on April 15. For more information, visit www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006.

Seizing the opportunity to gain, provide prospective

Lt. Col. Mark Holland
14th Medical Operations Squadron

At some point in our career, we must all decide on a career path. Will this career path include 20 years flying as a pilot, navigator or loadmaster? Maybe a job at the element or flight level that offers stability and a comfort level in job performance? Others will seek out that leadership role as a group superintendent, command chief, squadron commander or group commander.

As a practicing Air Force nurse anesthetist I also had to make that choice. My career was filled with clinical anesthesia – an experience that was both fulfilling and rewarding.

So why did I move from a clinician to a more administrative track? It was the opportunity to develop other skills that interested me.

After being a nurse anesthetist for 18 years, the Air Force offered me the opportunity to explore a new career path. I was interested in leadership positions that would expand my knowledge of the medical group and the Air Force.

I will always enjoy my clinical role as a nurse anesthetist, but appreciated the opportunity to explore other alternatives within the Air Force without losing seniority, pay, benefits or quality of life. In other words, I was still working for the same corporation with the same mission, vision and goals that I believed in.

One key component to remember while selecting your career path: Do not let apprehension or self doubt stop you from making the move if it is something you want. Staying within your comfort zone is

always easier. Moving to a career path with more leadership opportunities will force you to step outside of your comfort zone. I clearly moved out of my comfort zone in clinical anesthesia to a more executive role as a squadron commander. This is a good thing — you will be amazed at what you can accomplish if it is something you truly want to do.

So how does one cultivate the desire to move into the demanding role as a leader knowing more administrative tasks will surely follow? Do you really want to move beyond that comfort zone where very few individuals bother us in the day-to-day activities of the duty section?

Then again, working in the same place and not branching out can also be an obstacle. Very few people know about who you are and the valuable service that you provide to complete the mission.

How do you bridge this dilemma? It takes Senior NCOs and senior officers providing junior staff with an opportunity to learn more about this new role. With their assistance, you will gain a greater perspective on the organization you work for.

As a mid-grade major, I was asked by my squadron commander to be his deputy. This was certainly out of my comfort zone; but I saw this as an opportunity to learn more about the facility I was a part of. He also wanted me to sit in on the Executive Management Team meetings that took place two to three times a week. This presented a few problems...

First, I did not want to spend my time in meetings. Second, it required much effort to work this around my clinical responsibilities as a nurse anesthetist. Third, I had no idea what I had to offer the team or

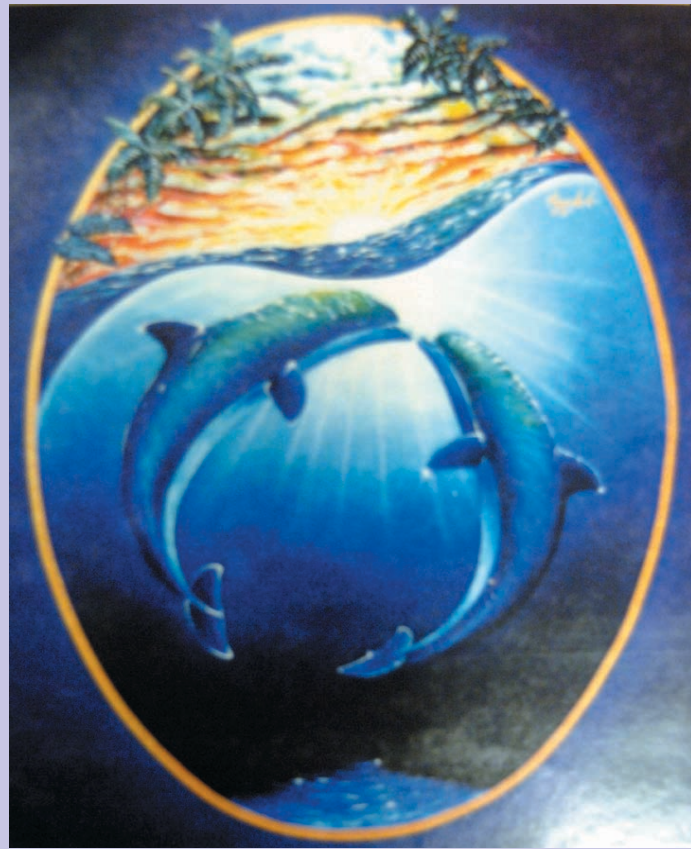
what I would even say. My commander impressed upon me that he wanted me to attend the meetings to just listen and learn. It did not matter if I said anything; I was simply to listen and learn.

This was incredibly valuable in that I was able to gain perspective. As his deputy, I made my rounds through the other sections of the unit to gain a larger picture of the squadron. I found myself outside those anesthesia double doors and in the facility interacting with multiple duty sections and personnel. Also, when you sit around a table at executive meetings with the group and squadron commanders, high level section chiefs, senior enlisted and others, you begin to truly learn and understand the organization. I began to clearly understand issues that didn't make sense before and how they affect the organization.

When you begin to broaden your perspective on multiple issues and thus your knowledge base, you have the opportunity to convey this message down to the element level. You can now give everyone in your duty section the opportunity to understand why decisions are made and how it affects the organization as a whole. It will also assist in validating the fact that they are important to the success of the mission.

Opportunity not only affords perspective, but allows you to provide it as well. As I sat with and discussed multiple issues with the group leadership, it became apparent that I had a perspective to offer that did not appear to be represented at the table.

At the executive level the best decisions are made when multiple competing views are voiced and discussed. Take that opportunity to provide your perspective to benefit your unit, wing and the Air Force.



The BLAZE TEAM's own
Eugene Poole
A Tribute to African American
Heritage Month



Military, football share tactics, maneuvers, strategies

Lt. Col. Peter Zuppas
35th Operations Group

MISAWA AB, Japan -- On a recent Sunday, my 6-year-old son said to me, "Dad, you spend too much time watching football on TV."

I was caught off-guard and busy (watching the game) but managed to mutter something like, "Son, someday you will understand" -- but I quickly realized I'd have to drum up a better response ... or possibly be shamed into watching less football.

So, from an Air Force and career military perspective -- and to justify my football addiction -- here goes...

American-style football is about as distinctly American as you can get. Maybe more than any other sport, it emphasizes qualities especially important in military life, including courage, teamwork and a fighting spirit.

When you think about it, football is a lot like a military operation. It has ele-

ments of strategy, offense, defense, collisions, speed, agility, power, grace and results on every play. Also there are blitzes, trenches and bombs. How could we not love it?

It is no coincidence that one of the longest rivalries in college football is the annual Army-Navy game which dates back more than 100 years. We have even named some of our

tactics after football, such as the "Hail Mary Maneuver" in the Gulf War and "Operation Linebacker" in Vietnam.

Football is based on tactics of maneuver and concentration of forces in order to penetrate the enemy's lines and cut off their lines of communication.

Football has specialty positions and

strategies that combine speed, power, surprise and science all coming together for a successful game plan. Football is a game of intensity -- but also one with strict rules of engagement.

But most of all football -- like our military -- emphasizes team work and a fighting spirit. "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing" is the

most famous quote attributed to the legendary Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi. Consider some of his other quotes and imagine what a military mentor he would make:

"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all-the-time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do the right

thing once in a while; you do them right all the time..."

"Football is a great deal like life in that it teaches that work, sacrifice, perseverance, competitive drive, selflessness and respect for authority is the price each and every one of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

"It is essential to understand that battles are primarily won in the hearts of men."

And finally...

"The spirit, the will to win, and the will to excel are the things that endure. These qualities are so much more important than the events that occur."

Other things may come and go but what must endure (in addition to football), what we must cultivate and what elevates us is a fighting team spirit that can never wane. I imagine Coach Lombardi would have surely been a "Fly, Fight and Win" Air Force fan!

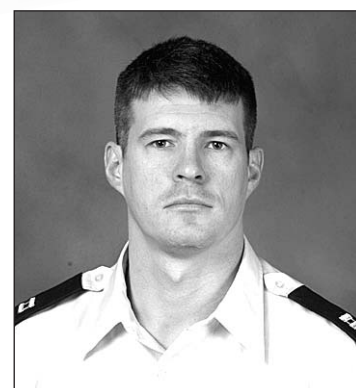
Well, that's justification enough for me. Back to watching football -- and teaching my son that it's more than just a game.

"Football is a game of intensity -- but also one with strict rules of engagement. But most of all football -- like our military -- emphasizes team work and a fighting spirit."

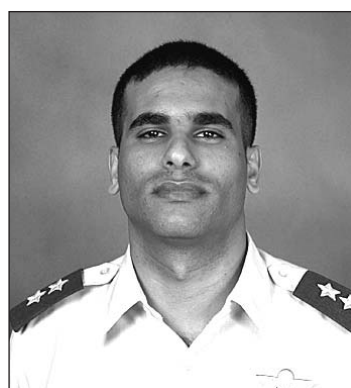
SUPT Class 06-05 earns silver wings

T-1A Jayhawk

T-38C Talon



Capt. Andrew Avery
Sandwich, Ill.
F-15C, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



1st Lt. Maaen Nasser Alshahtari
San'a, Yemen
F-5, Aldilami AFB, Yemen



2nd Lt. Adam De Felice
Corning, N.Y.
KC-135, McConnell AFB, Kan.



2nd Lt. Brian Doom
Wichita, Kan. (AFRC)
KC-135, McConnel AFB, Kan.

Sixteen officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to be an Air Force pilot.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 06-05 graduates at 9 a.m. today during a ceremony at the theater.

The graduation speaker is Brig. Gen. (Sel) Mike Moeller, deputy director of plans and programs, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Va. General Moeller assists the director in providing plans, programs, manpower and doctrine for more than 600 ACC and ACC-gained units at 291 locations, involving more than 173,000 people and budget of more than \$27 billion.

Students receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks are recognized.

Capt. Andrew Avery, T-38, and 2nd Lt. James Pearce, T-1 received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 2nd Lt. Benjamin Payne, T-38, and 2nd Lt. Wesley Spurlock, T-1. The award is presented to a graduate in each flight who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association — promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

Captain Avery and Lieutenant Pearce were named distinguished graduates.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37

Tweet. Some complete this phase in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan 2 at Moody AFB, Ga.

Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes about 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 flying hours.

After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38 Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet.

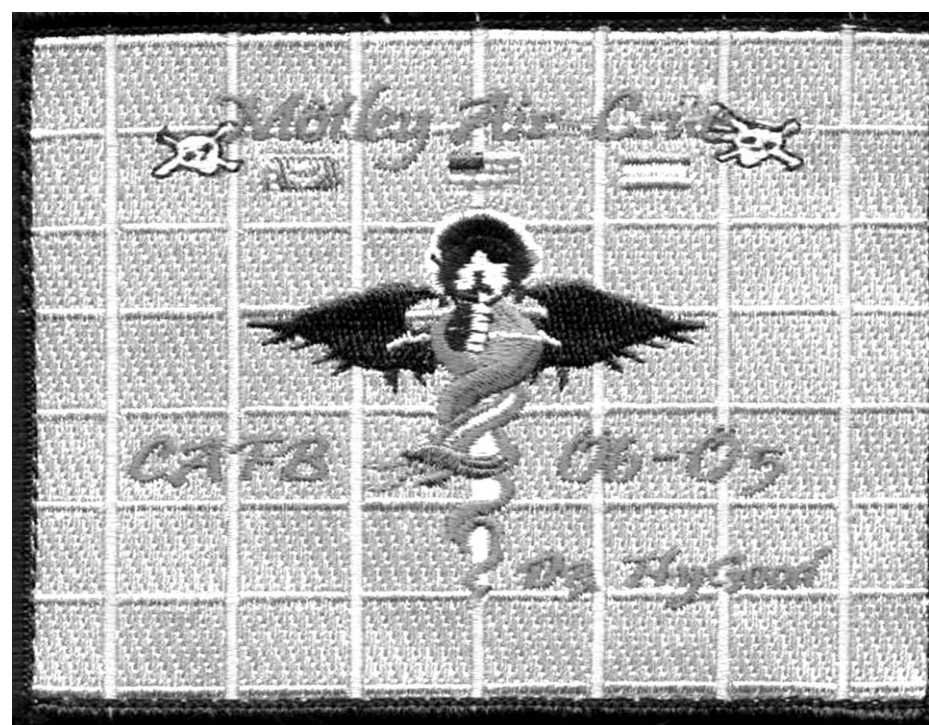
T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground events, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 flying hours.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place business jet.

Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and

airdrop missions. Training takes about 26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 43 hours in the flight simulator and 104 flying hours.

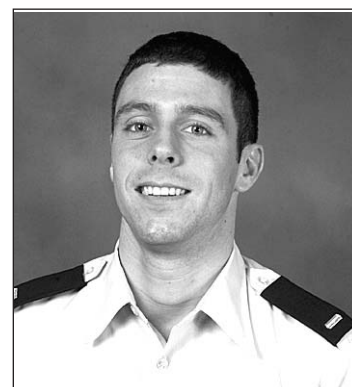
The class reunites on graduation day, when students receive the aeronautical rating of pilot and begin their careers as U.S. Air Force pilots. **(Editor's note: Brooks Eye Center and Jubilations Cheesecake.)**



2nd Lt. Matthew Lohmer
Lake Whitney, Texas
KC-10, McGuire AFB, N.J.



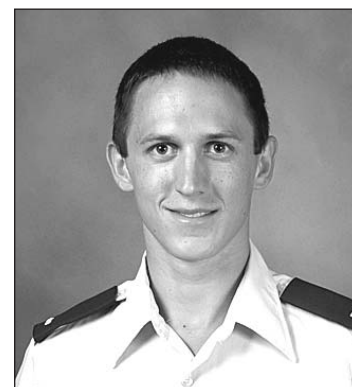
2nd Lt. Michael McFarland
Bedford, Mass.
KC-135, Fairchild AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Peter Minnar
Cohasset, Mass.
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



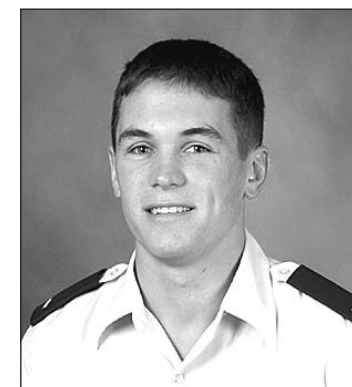
2nd Lt. David Mittman
Newport Beach, Calif.
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Benjamin Payne
Arvada, Colo.
T-6, Moody AFB, Ga.



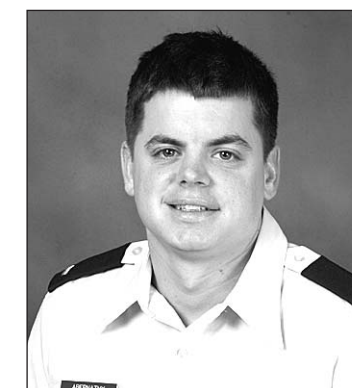
2nd Lt. James Pearce
Germantown, Tenn. (ANG)
C-5, Memphis ANG, Tenn.



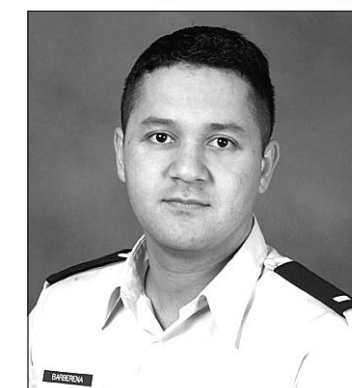
2nd Lt. Wesley Spurlock III
Norco, Calif.
T-1, Columbus AFB, Miss.



2nd Lt. Eric Wietlisbach
Klamath Falls, Ore.
C-17, Hickam AFB, Hawaii



2nd Lt. Will Abernathy
Germantown, Tenn. (ANG)
C-5, Memphis ANG, Tenn.



2nd Lt. Luis Barberena
Miami, Fla.
KC-135, Grand Forks AFB, N.D.



2nd Lt. Mark Harvey
Inlet, N.Y. (ANG)
KC-135, Bangor, Maine



2nd Lt. Jacob Henderson
Fayetteville, N.C.
E-3, Tinker AFB, Okla.

BLAZE TEAM member shares art work at base library's February exhibit

Airman Alyssa Wallace
14th Flying Training Wing

He has a passion that burns inside of him – a passion that pours out from his fingertips and flows fluidly from paintbrush to canvas in bold and vibrant colors.

Eugene Poole Jr., an architect for the 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, is a self-taught artist who has been painting for more than 10 years. After graduating in 1985 from the University of Kentucky with a degree in architecture, Mr. Poole became an Air Force officer. While stationed in Guam in 1993, he opted for an early retirement but decided to stay there. In his spare time, Mr. Poole fine-tuned the five genres of his paintings – marine art, urban contemporary, island cultural, jazz and abstract paintings ranging from oil paints, watercolors and pastels to acrylics, airbrushes, pens and ink. He has compiled hundreds of pieces of art over the years.

While in Guam, Mr. Poole was hired by the Hyatt Regency Hotel corporation to produce a one-of-a-kind piece that would be on display to bring in the new millennium.

“Working for the Hyatt Regency Hotel corporation is one of the most vivid memories that I have,” he said. “They approached me in August of 1999 about working on a piece that had never been seen before – something spectacular. We signed a contract and warehouse was rented for me to work in — equipped with all the tools I needed to get the job done. Once I got in the warehouse, I drew the image that I wanted and I started painting on Sept. 19, 1999. By Dec. 27, 1999, the painting was finished, and two days later I started to hang the art. The piece was as long as two football fields and was about 30 feet high. I put everything on hold in order to complete the piece.”

Mr. Poole has donated many pieces of his work to charities and loaned art to different organizations for exhibits. In fact, he has loaned pieces of his work to the base library for an exhibit that is now on display throughout February in recognition of African American Heritage Month.

Only five pieces of Mr. Poole's work currently on display at the library have previously been viewed.

“I usually like to paint new pieces for my exhibits,” he said. “It shows where I am with my creativity and what's going on in my mind at that point in time.”

Examples of all five genres will be at the exhibit including one or two pieces that will tribute Mississippi. One genre he is particularly well-connected to is urban contemporary.

“That's where the childhood play comes in,” Mr. Poole said. “It's whimsical and fun. If you have the time to look at it you can see that it's like a road map to my life – it tells where I've been and who I've met, where I've traveled, what I've seen. It conveys my deepest feelings about life.”

One example of an urban contemporary piece is



Eugene Poole Jr., 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, has been an artist for more than 10 years and has compiled more than 100 pieces of art from five genres. His work has been displayed regionally and internationally.

“Harlem Thoroughbred.” Mr. Poole compares the adventure of the young boy in the piece to events that happened in his childhood.

“The story behind Harlem Thoroughbred is a little boy that doesn't really have anything to do,” Mr. Poole explained. “The little boy has always had dreams of being a jockey and riding in a big race. He's in a junkyard, and his creative mind lets him become the jockey he's always wanted to be. He grabs a pail, a stick, a broom, a few pieces of wire, some string and an old broken stool that he fixes. He puts the pieces together, mounts his 'steed', and off he goes — he's racing and he's winning. It's about a child in the inner-city having fun.”

Mr. Poole's art has been recognized regionally and internationally. Over the years, he has gained many fans including celebrities. Singer Montel Jordan, rapper Coolio, jazz guitarist Earl Klugh and former President Bill Clinton are all owners of original pieces of Mr.

Poole's art. His work been featured at exhibits in places like Hawaii, New York, Georgia, Guam and Japan; his work has appeared on the covers of many magazines; and is still displayed in schools, restaurants, hotels, museums, businesses and military installations across the globe. He has also been recognized on talk radio shows and television programs for his talent.

Although architecture work for the BLAZE TEAM and his paintings are both considered pieces of art, Mr. Poole said the two are not related.

“My career and my art work are not connected,” he explained. “They're the void of each other. In architecture, there is a very defined analytical set of rules. What's designed from an architectural standpoint must be able to be built in the physical world.”

“Art, on the other hand, has no boundaries,” he said. “It has a different set of rules that can be broken. Those rules can be approached in such a way that your personality can dictate the overall outcome.”



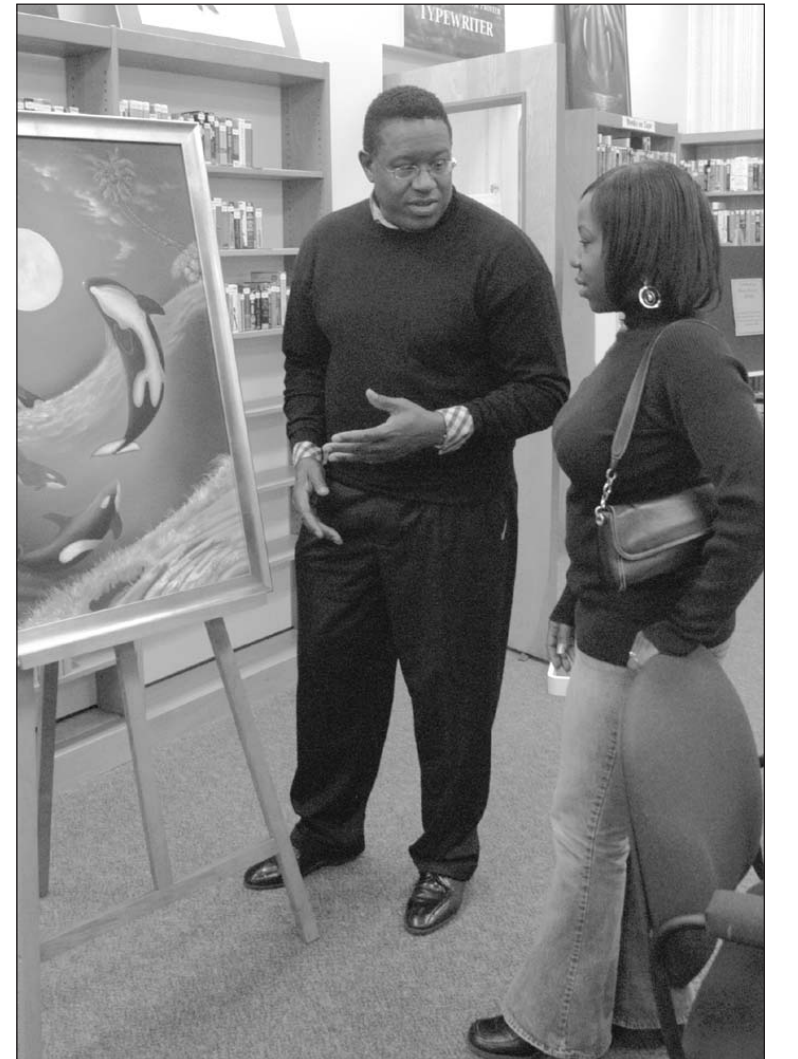
Poole's paintings with vibrant and bold colors not only catch the attention of adults, but children as well. John Fain, 3, stares in amazement at Mr. Poole's Marine art.



“Harlem Thoroughbred” is one of the many urban contemporary pieces Mr. Poole has created.



Nicole Fain, and son John get a tour of the exhibit from Mr. Poole. Adults and children are welcome to view the paintings on display at the base library. The exhibit is open during regular library hours.



Mr. Poole gives a description of one of his paintings to a Ebony Salvati at the base library. More than 20 paintings will be on display during February in honor of African American Heritage month.

One-day Mardi Gras trip: Today is the last day to register for the information, ticket and travel office’s one-day trip to New Orleans, La., Saturday. Cost is \$65 and includes transportation, and shuttle service while in New Orleans. The bus leaves at 5 a.m. and will depart at 1 a.m. Call Ext. 7861 for more information.

Cruise seminar: The information, ticket and travel office is hosting a free cruise seminar during a pay-as-you-go lunch Wednesday at the Columbus Club. Participants will learn about cruises, costs, available destinations and more. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Magic show family fun night: The Columbus Club offers a family fun night from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday with a Magic Memories Magic Show from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.95 for adult members and \$10.95 for nonmembers. Cost for ages 6 to 12 is \$4.95 for members and \$6.95 for nonmembers. Cost for children 5 and younger is \$1.

The adult buffet includes garden green salad, vegetable medley, smothered grilled chicken breast, roasted pork medallions, wild rice, rolls and butter, coffee and tea.

The children’s buffet includes chicken nuggets, french fries, corn dogs, tater tots, macaroni and cheese, fruit gelatin and chocolate and vanilla swirl pudding. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Free family child care certification training: The family child care office offers free training Tuesday through Feb. 17 to anyone interested in operating a family child care service in their base home. Participants must register by 4 p.m. Monday. For more information, call Ext. 3041.

Spring break trip to Orlando: Register at the information, ticket and travel office for this trip to Orlando, Fla. March 26 to March 30. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people in the same room, \$215 each for three people in one room and \$190 each for four people in one room. Cost includes transportation, four nights lodging and shuttle service while in Orlando. Discount Disney tickets are available at the ITT office. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Lunch buffets: The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday’s menu is new and

includes meat loaf, Southern fried pork chops, veggies and homemade apple pie. Wednesday’s menu features a southern comfort buffet with fried chicken, smoked brisket and cobbler. Thursday is the backyard barbecue and Friday’s menu is a bonsai buffet with teriyaki chicken, beef vegetable stir fry, fried rice and egg rolls. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes iced tea or lemonade. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

Crafts classes: The arts and crafts center’s upcoming crafts classes feature seasonal projects. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming classes include a heart shaped mosaic patio stone, an Uncle Sam wooden door hanging and a “Home is Where the Air Force Sends You” wooden sign.

The youth classes are offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Upcoming classes include a patriotic door hanging and a gumball machine.

A display of all projects is available in the arts and crafts lobby. Participants must register at least four days prior to the class date. For more information, call Ext. 7836

Teen aviation camp: This camp is from June 3 to June 9 in Colorado Springs, Co., at the Air Force Academy. The cost is free to those who are selected to attend but attendees will be responsible for transportation costs. The camp is for students who will be sophomores or juniors in high school during the 2006-2007 school year. Family members of active duty assigned to or living on an Air Force base, Air Force retired military, Air Force civilian employees, Air National Guard and Air Force reserve members are eligible to apply. Deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 24. The youth center director will conduct interviews with applicants the week of Feb. 27 to March 3. Those selected at the base level will be forwarded to the next level. Final selections will be based on application review and ratings by an impartial selection committee. Final selections for the 36 spaces will be announced by April 14. For more information, call Ext. 2504.

ImageMakers National Photography contest: The youth center is accepting entries into this Boys and Girls Club sponsored contest until March 10. Entries will be judged in four age categories: ages 9 and younger, ages 10 to 12, ages 13 to 15 and ages 16 to 18. Pictures

Mongolian buffet



Second Lt. Sean Powers, 48th Flying Training Squadron, customizes his dinner during a Mongolian Barbecue held at the Columbus Club's Friday night. Buffet dinners are scheduled to be held monthly. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

must have been taken within the last year. Photographs must be entered in one of the following categories: color process, black and white process; alternative process such as pinhole cameras, polaroid transfers, photo screen printing, photo etching and photograms; and digital and photo essay. Photographs must not exceed 8-by-11 inches and must be matted. A negative must accompany each photograph (submit a diskette for digital entries). For more information, call Ext. 2504.

Memphis Grizzlies honor military families: Military families may enter a drawing for the opportunity to attend a 2005-2006 Memphis Grizzlies home game by picking up an application at the information, ticket and travel office. The winner will receive passes to a game for up to 10 family members, two parking passes and a \$10 concessions voucher per person.

The chosen servicemember must have

been deployed to the Middle East during the last four years for a period of no less than six months as a member of the U.S. armed forces.

Eligible applications will remain in the drawing for every home game so families only need apply one time. The Grizzlies Foundation staff will give winning families at least one week’s notice before the game to coordinate plans to attend. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

Missoula Performing Arts Camp: The youth center is taking applications until March 10 for ages 14 to 18 with a interest in the performing arts. This camp will be held July 16 to July 22 and again July 23 to July 29 in Missoula, Mont. All expenses will be paid including travel if selected. Turn in an application along with a video of the teen performing to the youth center by the deadline. For more information on the camp, visit www.mctinc.org and click on “MCT and the Military” or call the youth center at Ext. 2504.

Family Support Center

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.)

Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and the government is from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

Deployment Briefings

Pre-Deployment Briefings are held daily at 9 a.m. Family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Ext. 2974 or Ext. 2790.

Hearts Apart social

A social gathering for families of personnel deployed or remote for more than 30 days is at 5:30 p.m. Feb. 23. Information, refreshments and prizes are provided.

Base Notes

Trash cans

Trash pick-up is on Mondays for Capitol Housing residents and on Thursdays for Magnolia and State Village residents. Residents with trash or recycling receptacles left curb-side later than noon the following day will be ticketed by the housing office.

Free soil and mulch

Free top soil and mulch are available for all base housing occupants in the agriculture yard located on the gravel road adjacent to the Thrift Store. For more information, please call Ext. 2840.

Speed dial saves lives

Columbus AFB Fire & Emergency Services maintains two dedicated Emergency 911 lines to handle emergency responses. Please use 911 from base phones and cell phones. When calling 911 to make sure to state exact location on base. All emergency calls will be will be forwarded to the base Fire & Emergency services E-911 center.

Student Spouse Group

Past, present and future student spouses are invited to a Student Spouse Group Walk and Talk at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Feb. 15 beginning at the bus stop at the entrance of Capitol Village. The group is part of the Columbus Officers’ Spouses’ Club and provides spouses an opportunity to meet new people and build resources. Children are invited and no reservations are required.

Pennies for pins



Airman Alyssa Wallace

Master Sgt. Daniel Hamblin, 14th Communications Squadron, positions himself for a strike while members of the Top 3 and the BLAZE 6 watch. The two groups participated in a bowl-a-thon Feb. 10 to raise money for the Annual Awards Banquet held at the Columbus Club Saturday. Anyone wishing to buy tickets for the event should contact their First Sergeant.

For more information or questions, e-mail Allison Adair at allison_adair@yahoo.com or call her at 434-8714.

COSC social

A COSC wine and chocolate tasting social is at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Columbus Club. Members, spouses and guests will learn about and sample wines and chocolate from a menu of palette pleasers. Cost is \$13.50 with club members receiving a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. For reservations, e-mail Jennifer Wood at woodtjjg@cable.one.net or call 425-6059 by noon Thursday.

Garage sales

On-base garage sales are only permitted the first Saturday of every month. Advertisements for sales are limited to yard signs or ads in the base paper only. Signs must be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Displaying signs on utility poles and street signs in prohibited. Advertising yard sales in the local media, excluding the base newspaper, is also prohibited. People may locally advertise individual items for sale, such as automobiles, boats, washers, dryers or

refrigerators. Columbus AFB housing areas are located on a federal installation and the civilian public may only enter a military installation on official business, open house functions or social visitations. Yard and carport sales do not fall within these criteria.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Volunteers are needed. Consignments are accepted Thursdays until one hour before closing. For more information, call Ext. 2954.

Interpersonal Process Group

Active duty and their dependents are invited to attend this group meeting at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the clinic. The group will focus on addressing a wide range of emotional difficulties in a group setting. For more information, call Ext. 2239.

Legal office closure

The base legal office will be closed for training today from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

Sunday:
9:15 a.m. — Mass
10:30 a.m. — CCD
5 p.m. — Confessions
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass
Tuesday:
7 p.m. -- RCIA

Protestant

Sunday:
9 a.m. — Adult and children’s Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -- Contemporary service at the services complex
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship service at the chapel sanctuary
Monday:
7 p.m. — Bible study fellowship
Wednesday:
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study
5 p.m. — Pot luck supper
6 p.m. — Video study
A Case for Kids
Pioneer Clubs

Thursday:
10 a.m. -- Ladies Bible Study
For information, call Ext. 2500.

Daily historic home tours: The public is invited to drop by or call the Mississippi Welcome Center or Columbus Historic Foundation for schedules of historic homes open for tours. For admission or more information, call (800) 920-3533.

Community Volunteer Center: People in search of volunteer opportunities can contact the Community Volunteer Center at 327-0807, or visit the office at 501 Seventh St. North, Suite 5, in the Plaza Building.

American Indian Artifacts Museum: This museum is located in Columbus and holds Native American artifacts dating back hundreds and thousands of years. Tours are available to individuals or groups by appointment. For more information, call Byron and Alice Weeks at (662) 251-1125.

Exchange Club: The Exchange Club of Columbus meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The organization is a community service group dedicated

to programs and projects that aid in the prevention of child abuse. For more information, e-mail exchange clubofcolumbusms@yahoo.com.

Double Exposure Exhibit: A free exhibit of award-winning photography from Alabama will be presented by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County in the Bama Theatre's Junior League Gallery through Feb. 24 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. For more information, call (205) 758-5195.

Crappie USA Qualifier Fishing Tournament: This tournament will be held at the Columbus Marina on Feb. 25. For more information, call the Columbus Visitor's Bureau at (662) 329-1191.

Day of Dance for Heart Health: This event will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Feb. 25 at the Gloster Creek Village in Tupelo, Miss. The 2006 Day of Dance for Heart Health is a celebration of dance as a way to enjoy life and prevent heart disease, the No. 1 killer of American women. Dozens

of dance demonstrations are scheduled throughout the morning. Styles will include belly dancing, hip-hop, line dance, ballroom dance, ethnic dance and more. Many will offer participants the opportunity to join in and learn something new. While taking a break from dancing, attendees can take advantage of screenings and education pertaining to heart health. Screenings include blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, women's heart disease risk, body mass index, stroke risk and more. Local cardiologists will also be on hand throughout the event. Participants can sample heart-healthy treats and register for door prizes.

MOPS: Mothers of Preschoolers meet each month during the school year on the second and fourth Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for a social and guest speaker. Child care is provided onsite. For more information on the MOPS group, call 327-2010 or e-mail info@hopems.org.

For more event listings, visit www.columbusms.org or www.tupelo.net.

BARGAIN LINE

Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

Type of advertisement (circle one) Home Transportation Miscellaneous Yard sales Pets

Print advertisement _____

Name _____

Home Telephone # _____ Duty Telephone # _____
(in case we need more information)

Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

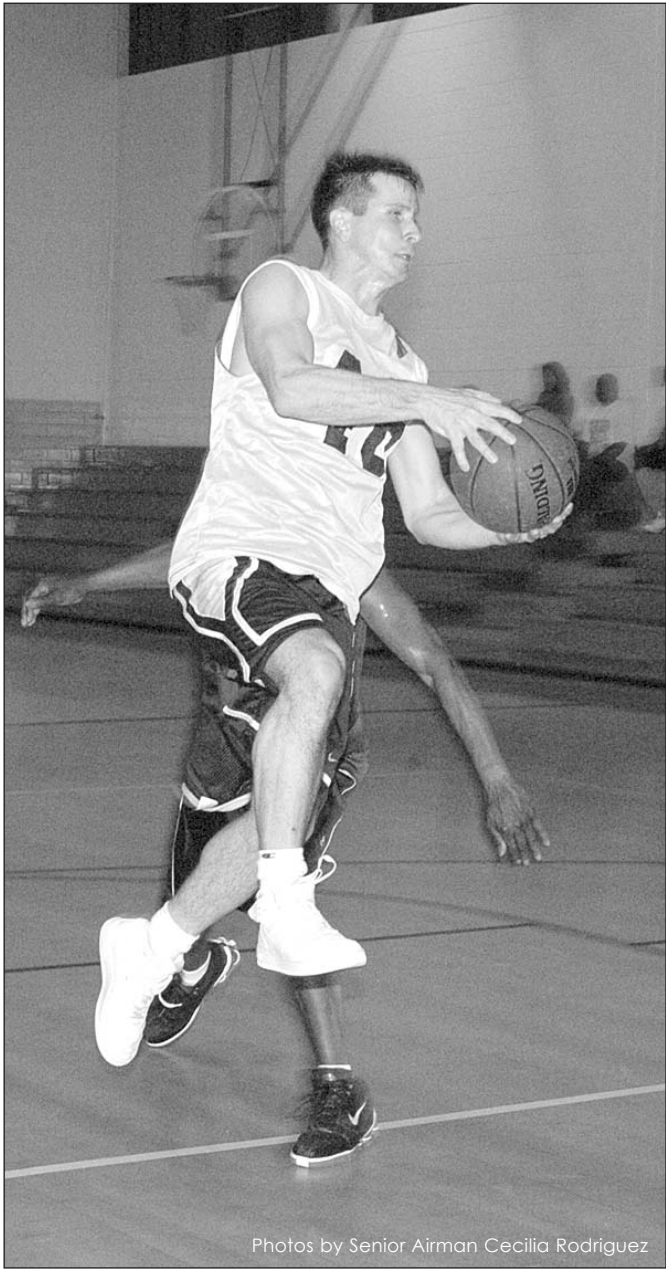
Are you happy with the Silver Wings? Yes ☐ No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper? News ☐ Sports ☐ Photos ☐ Other _____

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at silverwings@columbus.af.mil.

On a Mission

MSS defeats OSS to claim basketball championship



Right: Dave Kase, 14th Operations Support Squadron, takes it to the hoop.



Top: John Lewis, 14th Mission Support Squadron, claims a fast rebound from Felix Cole, 14th Operations Support Squadron. Left: Robert Hamilton, 14th MSS, plays a tough defense against Thomas Clark, 14th OSS. The MSS Team triumphed over OSS, 44-39, to claim the basketball intramural championship Tuesday at the fitness center.

Sports Shorts

Sweetheart fun run

BLAZE TEAM families are invited to a sweetheart fun run at 7 a.m. Feb. 17 at the fitness center. Participants may bring their dog along for the run, as well as strollers for their children.

Sweetheart no-tap tournament

This no-tap bowling tournament is at 7 p.m. Feb. 17

at the bowling center. Cost is \$20 per couple and includes bowling, a prize fund contribution and door prizes.

Sweetheart golf tournament

A sweetheart nine-hole scramble golf tournament is scheduled to begin with a shotgun start at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at Whispering Pines Golf Course. Cost is \$50 per team and includes greens fees, prize fund, golf cart and a grilled chicken dinner.

Participants must register by Feb. 23 at the golf pro

shop. For more information, call Ext. 7932.

Bowling staff challenge

The bowling center staff invites all BLAZE TEAM members to participate in its bowling challenge. One staff member will bowl a game each week, and his or her score will become the target score for anyone who bowls that day.

Bowlers who beat the score will win a free game of bowling to be redeemed at a later date. For more information, call the bowling center at Ext. 2426.